

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 7980 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BRASILIA, MEXICO, CARACAS, ABIDJAN, SANTO DOMINGO,
GUATEMALA, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, MANAGUA,
SAN JOSE, PANAMA, RIO DE JANEIRO AND SAO PAULO AUG 22.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7980

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CO

SUBJ: COFFEE

1. SUMMARY: ALL MAJOR COLOMBIAN DAILIES GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO
ARRIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN AND IVORY COAST COFFEE REPRESENTATIVES
IN BOGOTA FOR TWO-DAY SUMMIT TO DISCUSS: 1) EFFECTS OF BRAZILIAN
FREEZE ON WORLD EXPORT AVAILABILITIES OF COFFEE AND RESULTANT PRICE
IMPACT; 2) COMMON POLICY AMONG PRODUCERS TO BE PRESENTED AT ICO
MEETING SEP. 13; AND 3) WHAT PRICE LEVELS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO
BOTH PRODUCER AND CONSUMER INTERESTS IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS.
MAJORITY OF COMMENTS OBTAINED FROM PRINCIPAL COFFEE PRODUCER
REPRESENTATIVES INTERVIEWED EVENING OF AUGUST 21, IMPLIED INTER-
EST ON PART OF PRODUCERS TO COME TO AGREEMENT WITH CONSUMING
COUNTRIES WITHIN CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT.

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END SUMMARY.

2. WITH ARRIVAL OF LATIN AMERICAN COFFEE REPRESENTATIVES (LIST
BELOW) IN BOGOTA, EVENING OF AUGUST 21, FOR TWO-DAY SUMMIT TO
DISCUSS THE PRESENT AND FUTURE COFFEE SITUATION AND POLICY, COLOM-
BIAN PRESS ATTEMPTED TO EXTRACT INDIVIDUAL POLICY VIEWS AND OPIN-
IONS WITH REGARD TO UPCOMING MEETINGS.

3. REGARDING EXTENT OF PRODUCTION LOSS DUE TO FREEZE IN MAJOR BRAZILIAN COFFEE STATES, CAMILO CALAZANS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE ESTIMATE OF LOSS IS CURRENTLY AT 30 PERCENT OF TOTAL CROP RANGING BETWEEN 4-6 MILLION BAGS. YESTERDAY, CALAZANS WAS ATTRIBUTED TO STATEMENT OF REDUCTION IN STATES OF PARANT OF 64 PERCENT; SAO PAULO 30 PERCENT; AND MINAS GERAIS 5 PERCENT, BRINGING TOTAL TO 8 MILLION BAGS. ESTIMATE OF 3-4 MILLION TONS WAS ONE QUOTED MOST OFTEN IN OTHER COLOMBIAN NEWS MEDIA ON AUGUST 4, HOWEVER.

4. SEVERAL COFFEE REPRESENTATIVES WERE QUESTIONED WITH REGARD TO AN ACCEPTABLE PRICE WITHIN WHICH A REVISED ICA MIGHT OPERATE. WHILE THE MAIN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S "EL TIEMPO" IMPLIED A CONSENSUS OF PRODUCERS FOR A PRICE RANGE BETWEEN US \$1.70-US\$2.20 PER POUND; ALSO PROFESSED BY GUATEMALAN REP. PLOCHARSKI, FALLA CACERES (EL SALVADOR) MENTIONED A PRICE "AROUND US\$2.20," WHILE OTHERS, MEXICAN AND COSTA RICAN DELEGATES REFUSED TO DIVULGE ANY ACCEPTABLE PRICE LEVEL. IN MONDAY'S "ESPECTADOR" ARANGO LONDONO, PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIAN COFFEE GROWERS COMMITTEE, WAS QUOTED AS REFERRING TO A PRICE TARGET OF US\$2.20 PROPOSED BY EX-PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN SOME MONTHS AGO. ARANGO ADDED THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STABLE PRICES AND NOT PREJUDICE CONSUMERS, A PRICE OF US\$1.80 OUGHT TO BE AGREED UPON.

5. BOTH COSTA RICAN DELEGATE AND COLOMBIAN PRESS MENTIONED BRAZIL-
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ILIAN AND OTHER COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES RELUCTANCE TO RESPOND TO EARLIER COLOMBIAN INITIATIVE TO STABILIZE COFFEE PRICES AFTER 1975 BRAZILIAN FROST.

6. OTHER QUOTES OF INTEREST FROM OTHER DELEGATES INCLUDE ONE OF FALLA CACERES SAYING THAT TO "REVEAL ONE'S STOCK LEVEL IS TANTAMOUNT TO INFORMING THE ENEMY OF YOUR WEAPONRY". ALSO, CACERES CLAIMED EL SALVADOR ONLY COUNTRY WITH SIZEABLE STOCKS AND THAT BOTH COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL NOT TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR STOCK LEVELS. AGUILERA GOMEZ (MEXICO) CLAIMED HE HAD COME TO BOGOTA TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A NEW TRIGGER PRICE, PRICE RANGE AND QUOTAS, AND THAT ICA CLAUSES, "MOST CONVENIENT MEANS BY WHICH TO REACH AGREEMENT." VENEZUELAN DELEGATE EXPECTED TO PROPOSE ONCE AGAIN IDEA OF INTERNATIONAL COFFEE MARKETING AGENCY. COMMENT: BEGIN LOU VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL NOT LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AS ACCEPTANCE BY OTHERS NOT EXPECTED. END COMMENT AND LOU.

7. COFFEE DELEGATE LIST: 1) BRAZIL-CAMILO CALAZANS DE MAGALHAES, IBC; DON JORIO DAUSTER, FOREIGN SECRETARY; 2) COLOMBIA-JAIME GARCIA PARA, FINANCE MINISTER; GOMEZ JARAMILLO, MANAGER (CCF); JOSE JUAN TURBAY. 3) IVORY COAST - JEAN MARIER KACOU GERVAIS,

PERMANENT REP. IN LONDON; 4) COSTA RICA-CLAUDIO CASTRO TOSSI;
VP OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR COFFEE OFFICE; 5) EL SALVADOR - RICARDO
FALLA CACERES, MANAGER, SALVADOR COFFEE COMPANY; CARLOS HIPOLITO
MURILLO, ASST. SEC. OF ECONOMY; RAFAEL ISIDORO NIETO, PRES.
SALVADOR COFFEE COMPANY; 6) GUATEMALA - EDGAR PONCIANO, MIN.
OF AGRICULTURE; TEDDY PLOCHARSKI, PRES. ANACAFE; 7) HONDURAS -
FERNANDO MONTES, MGR. INSTITUTO HONDURENO DEL CAFE; 8) MEXICO -
MANUEL AGUILERA GOMEZ, DIR. INMECAFE; 9) VENEZUELA - PEDRO
ANGEL VASQUEZ, DIR. GEN. FONDO NAC. DEL CAFE.

FOR ASST. SECY KATZ: GOMEZ JARAMILLO NOTIFIED YOUR AVAILABILITY TO
MEET WITH HIM ON AUGUST 29 AND 30. ASENCIO
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
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